

### Claims

1. A motor-adjustable head rest for operating tables, comprising a head plate (12) which is arranged at one end of a curved support shaft (24) which, in a plane which is perpendicular with respect to the axis of curvature, is guided in an adjustable manner on a support (38) between three rollers (26, 28, 30) which are spaced from one another in the direction of adjustment, which support (38) can be connected to the operating table, **characterized** in that the tracks (32, 34, 36) for the rollers (26, 28, 30) which are formed on the support shaft (24) are shaped such that their instantaneous curvature centers in each position of the support shaft (24) coincide with the instantaneous center of rotation  $Z_{\text{mom}}$  of the head movement during the lifting and the lowering of a patient's head (14) which rests on the head plate (12).
2. The head rest according to claim 1, **characterized** in that two of the tracks (32, 36) point downward and one track (34) points upward.
3. The head rest according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized** in that one of the rollers (30) supporting the support shaft (24) is prestressed in the direction to the support shaft (24).
4. The head rest according to one of the claims 1 to 3, **characterized** in that the support comprises a housing (38) which can be rigidly connected to the operating table and in which the rollers (26, 28, 30) are mounted and the support shaft (24) is guided.
5. The head rest according to one of the claims 1 to 4, **characterized** in that the support shaft (24) supports a gear track (54) in which a pinion (56) which can be driven by a motor (60) engages.
6. The head rest according to claim 5, **characterized** in that the gear track (54) is formed on a side surface of the support shaft which is perpendicular to the axis of curvature of the support shaft (24) and in that the drive device comprising the motor (60) and the pinion (56) is movably mounted about a pivoting axis (66) which is perpendicular to the side surface.

7. The head rest according to one of the claims 1 to 4, **characterized** in that the drive device comprises a threaded spindle which can be rotated by a motor, which rests on the support and which engages in a nut which is movably mounted to the support shaft.
8. The head rest according to one of the claims 1 to 4, **characterized** in that the drive device comprises a pulling element, which is attached on or near the two ends of the support shaft and which is guided over a drive wheel which can be driven by a motor.
9. The head rest according to one of the claims 1 to 4, **characterized** in that the drive device comprises a hydraulic cylinder which is supported on a support.